

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 13, 2006, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by DeFrees-Parrott *et al.* (US 2001/0036855). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For the sake of brevity, the rejections of the independent claims 1, 2, and 6 are discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patentably distinct over the prior art, as they depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate and independent bases for patentability.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that DeFrees-Parrott does not anticipate the claimed invention because this reference fails to disclose (1) that lottery tickets may be issued as a prize; and (2) that a portion of the player wager is used to fund a lottery ticket purchasing pool. Rather, DeFrees-Parrott only teaches that a lottery gaming device may be connected to an existing gaming machine. Furthermore, DeFrees-Parrott does not disclose that lottery tickets may be issued as a prize. Rather, DeFrees-Parrott teaches that certain events may trigger a lottery game. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees indicated in the Fee Transmittal, any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 734-3200. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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